pieces of the sixteenth century. The handsome and distinguished Undersecretary, with his charming manner, fitted this setting. He apologized for the absence of the Minister. "We have had a busy day, you know," he explained with a smile. "This Fiume affair has upset our timetable. A trivial border incident, of course, nothing serious. Instructions have been sent to everyone concerned. Indeed, the incident has been settled already. But there are formalities, papers to sign. The Minister is unhappy that he cannot see you." And so dismissing the Fiume affair, Count Sforza turned the conversation to questions of common interest to Italy and Georgia.

The next day the President of the government, Francesco Nitti, denounced in parliament the anarchistic acts of d'Annunzio and his followers and threatened to counter them with force, but the nationalistic newspapers enthusiastically supported the coup. The most fanatic among them was the Milanese *Popolo d'Italia*, published by a former left-wing Socialist, Benito Mussolini, who combined ardent nationalism with revolutionary catchwords such as "Revolution is an idea that has bayonets," "Who has steel, has bread." His paper had not been taken seriously in political and literary circles in Rome, but in the turmoil created by the Fiume coup it rose to national prominence. Volunteers thronged to join d'Annunzio, who established himself as the head of the Italian administration in the disputed city. Under the pressure of public opinion and the military, the government recognized d'Annunzio's coup as a patriotic act.

Italy was a member of the Triple Alliance of the Central Powers when the war broke out in 1914, but the people opposed participation in the war on the side of Austria-Hungary and the Italian government declared the country neutral. Very soon, however, a strong movement developed in favor of joining the anti-German coalition. Its victory would give Italy the southern province of Austria, with its predominantly Italian population. After France and Great Britain had promised adjustments of her northern frontier, Italy declared war on Austria, but the war brought her a chain of humiliating defeats. Three times her armies started an offensive, and each time they were thrown back with heavy losses. In the fall of 1918, after Bulgaria and Turkey had asked for an armistice and the Austrian army had begun to disintegrate, the Italians attacked for the fourth time and, meeting no serious resistance, pierced the enemy's front line. After the surrender of Austria, the Italians easily persuaded themselves that they had won the war. Their national pride was deeply wounded when they discovered that the French and British did not share this notion.

Ultimately Italy obtained all that the Allies had promised and more. Indeed, in comparison with her contribution to the common victory, she got probably more than any other member of the Entente. Never-